AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-4 without prejudice.

The listing of claims shown below will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the Application:

1.   (Cancelled)

2.   (Cancelled)

3.   (Cancelled)

4.   (Cancelled)

5.   (New) A method for sorting a particle of interest from a plurality of particles comprising the steps of:

determining an absorption maxima of the particle of interest;

providing a light source for generating a beam of coherent light at a wavelength correlating to the absorption maxima;

providing a plurality of particles on a support surface;

illuminating the plurality of particles with a moving beam of the coherent light, the moving beam of light causing differential movement between the particle of interest and the plurality of particl s; and

4

collecting the particle of interest.

6.   (New) The method of claim 5, wherein the absorption maxima is a local maxima.

7.   (New) The method of claim 5, wherein the absorption maxima is a global maxima.

8.   (New) The method of claim 5, wherein the absorption maxima is obtained by empirical data.

9.   (New) The method of claim 5, wherein the support surface is a slide.

10.   (New) The method of claim 5, wherein the support surface is a microfluidic channel.

11.   (New) A method for sorting a particle of interest from a plurality of particles comprising the steps of:

determining an absorption maxima of the particle of interest;

providing a light source for generating a beam of coherent light at a wavelength correlating to the absorption maxima;

providing a plurality of particles on a support surface;

illuminating the plurality of particles with a moving beam of the coherent light;

5.

moving the plurality of particles in relation to the beam of light so as to cause

differential movement between the particle of interest and the plurality of particles; and

collecting the particle of interest.

12.   (New) The method of claim 11, wherein the absorption maxima is a local

maxima.

13.   (New) The method of claim 11, wherein the absorption maxima is a global

maxima.

14.   (New) The method of claim 11, wherein the absorption maxima is obtained by

empirical data.

15.   (New) The method of claim 11, wherein the support surface is a slide.

16.   (New) The method of claim 11, wherein the support surface is a microfluidic

channel.

6